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—Viet Nam

THE column "A New Light on Viet Nam" (by Alice Widener, Jan. 10) and Wm. F. Buckley's column of Jan. 11 disclose the existence of the U.N. Fact Finding document No. A-5630: There was no evidence to support any "religious persecution" of the Buddhists.

The American press had fed to the American people, apparently, "the shocking inaccuracy and downright falsehood of many press reports from Saigon." Some of us felt at the time that something was "phony". Margaret Higgins, from Saigon, had reported before Diem's death that Buddhist monks were surprised to hear of any persecution — they had not seen any persecution. She was right on the scene.

Again, the American people have been played for a believing bunch of suckers, for the State Department and the CIA have apparently acted on misinformation.

Two weeks ago, the present Viet Nam government threw a big party "for only those pressmen" who supported the religious persecution theme. Margaret Higgins was not invited. Who were invited to this rewarding party? Who were excluded?

Madame Nhu was more right than wrong. No wonder her anguish at seeing America (the hope of the world?) kicked over by a pack of lies. She did choose a good country for refuge—France. DeGaulle is not gullible.

Denver. DICK CROSS.

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